

(I) Bill read 3 Feb. 1721

Some Queries relating to the Bill of Engraftment, and the present State of the South- Sea-Company.



S the Bill now depending is generally presumed to be designed for the Relief and Benefit of the unfortunate *South Sea* Adventurers; we therefore think it necessary to propose these following Queries.

Is the *South Sea* Company to transfer to the Bank Nine Millions, and to the *India* Company Nine Millions, part of their present Capital, free from all Demands whatever, with Annuities issuing out of the Exchequer of Five *per Cent.* and allow the said Companies a certain Sum *per Ann.* for the Charges

the increasing their Capitals will occasion?

Will it be allowed that 100 *l.* *South Sea* Stock as above, is of as real Value, and at present will sell for as much as 100 *l.* Nominal Bank Stock, (by their own Accounts but 90 *l.* intrinsic Value) or 100 *l.* Nominal *India* Stock, whose intrinsic is not publicly known (but generally guessed at) ?

Why must every Adventurer be obliged to quit Part of his Interest in the *South Sea* Company, to become Adventurer in the Bank and *India*, and for every 100 *l.* Stock in those Companies, give 120 *l.* *South Sea* Stock? Is not this an apparent Hardship, a very great Loss?

Did the *South Sea* Directors, the 20th of September last, declare to the then General Court, that they had treated with the Bank, viz. To give them Stock for the Sum of 3,775,000 *l.* which the *South Sea* Company was to pay the Bank on the Government's Account at *Lady-Day* and *Michaelmas* next, and for circulating their Bonds? Did the General Court approve this Report, and vest the Court of Directors with full Power to treat and agree as above?

Did the *South Sea* Directors, the 30th of September, acquaint their General Court, that they had agreed with the Bank for the Circulation of their Bonds, and to pay them the Sum of 3,775,000 in Stock, at 400 *per Cent.* giving them the *Midsummer* Dividend of 10 *per Cent.* in Stock?

Was Sir G—— H—— (a Principal Director of the Bank) at that General Court, and heard the above Agreements declared, and tacitly allowed the same? And after the said Declaration, did he not make a Speech at that Court?

Do the Bank now disown the Agreement to take Stock at 400?

By the Ingraftment is such Agreement to be made void?

If the *South Sea* Company shall hereafter be obliged to pay either the Bank or the Government, in Cash the Sum of 3,775,000, will the Difference between Money and Stock be more than Two Millions?

Will the Difference to the *South Sea* Company, by purchasing Bank and *India* Stock at 120 *per Cent.* with *South Sea* Stock valued at but 100 *per Cent.* added to the Loss by the above Agreement being made void, be considerably more than Four Millions Difference to the *South Sea* Adventurers?

Did the Bank at their General Court, when they declared their last Dividend of 4 *per Cent.* for half a Year, acquaint their Adventurers, they feared they could not continue to give them so large a Dividend?

Will the *India* Company lose Part of their Profits if the Callico Bill passes?

If these Queries be answer'd in the Affirmative,
 How does the Bill for Ingraftment help the *South Sea* Company?
 As to the raising Publick Credit,
 If this Ingraftment takes Place, is not the three Company's Capitals to be, viz.

<i>South Sea</i> —————	20.000.000	00	0
<i>Bank</i> —————	13.059.995	14	8
<i>India</i> —————	10.700.000	00	0
	43.759.995	14	8

Is it urged that the *South Sea* Company's present Capital is near 38 Millions, and that Sum is too large, and may be of dangerous Consequence to trust with one Sett of Men?

Are they serious who advance this for an Argument in Favour of the Ingraftment?

Is every Adventurer in the *South Sea* Stock intitled to 44*l.* 11*s.* per Cent. as his Interest in the Stock undisposed of, and now with the Company?

By the Ingraftment is not every 144*l.* 11*s.* *South Sea* Stock to be disposed of, viz.

34 <i>l.</i> <i>South Sea</i> Stock (free of Profit and Loss) to purchase	28	06	8	<i>Bank</i> Stock
34 ditto —————	28	06	8	<i>India</i> Stock
76 11 <i>s.</i> remains with the <i>South Sea</i> Company ———	76	11	0	

144 11

Due to Ballance 133 04 4
 11 06 8

144 11 0

By the above Account does it appear the Adventurers of these three Companies are united in Interest?

Was the present Directors of the *South Sea* Company chosen by a Committee of the Leading Men in the Courts of Directors of the *Bank* and *India* Companies?

Is some of the Directors taken out of those Bodies?

May not all the Directors of the three Companies be called one Set of Men?

Will not those three Companies (as to the Publick) appear as one?

Will not they (being united in Interest) be ready to assist each other in any Favour they shall hereafter ask of the Government? And,

Will the Government have less to fear from those Capitals of more than 43 Millions thus united, than from the Capital of 38 Millions?

But will the Account stand thus if the Ingraftment does not go forward?

If the *Bank* be paid off according to Notice from the Government, will their Capital at *Michaelmas* next be

<i>Bank</i> —————	1.784.995	14	8
<i>India</i> —————	3.200.000	00	0
<i>South Sea</i> , disposed of as declared at the last General Court	25.975.079	19	9

Total Amount of the three Capitals ————— 30.960.075 14 5

Will not the Scheme of Ingraftment immediately bring to Market near Twelve Millions extraordinary in *South Sea* Stock?

Will any one deny the aforesaid Scheme is the most likely, nay, the only Way to raise publick Credit?

Will the Parliament think fit to discharge the *South Sea* Company from any Demand of the 7 Millions to be paid the Government?

Will not the *Bank* be then very honourably and honestly discharged from the Agreement with the *South Sea* Company to take Stock at 400?

Will not their Capital then continue as now 5.559.995 14 8?

Will not every one allow such Capital as large as they desire, or can employ, when they've so lately paid their Adventurers in part of their Capital 10 per Cent?

If the Company be left to stand on its own Bottom, have they disposed of more than 25.975.079 19 9 of their present Capital?

Is not their present Capital 37.803.698 14 0? For which don't they now receive the sundry Annuities, amounting to per Ann. 1.851.782 18 9?

Will it be doubted that the Proprietors in the first Money Subscription will refuse to make their future Payments if Time sufficient be given them?

If

(3)

If Six Year's Time be given them without Interest at 12 l. 10 s. per Cent. every Six Months, will not such Payment amount to 281.250 l. which added to the Annuity from the Government, will it not divide 9 per Cent. per Ann. for six Years on 26 Millions?

Have not the Parliament voted, and order'd in a Bill accordingly, that any Loss that shall happen to the *South Sea* Company by the Loan of Money on Stock and Subscription, be made good out of the private Fortunes of the late Directors?

Will it not be presum'd, that the Stock and Subscription pledged, the Obligations on the Borrowers, and the Directors Fortunes, will be sufficient to secure the Repayment of the several Sums borrowed?

Does not the Sums unpaid on 2,563,117 Stock, amount to 9.030.936 0 0
On Subscriptions ——— 773,600 ——— amount to ——— 2.259.025 0 0

Sum Total amounts to ——— 11.298.961 0 0
Is there more than Six Months Interest due at 5 per Cent. — 281.475 12 6

Do not the Company owe on Bonds and Exchequer Bills? — 11.580.436 12 6
5.361.192 0 0

Will there not then remain ——— 6.219,244 12 6

Till the Company be paid the above Sums, will they not be receiving the same Interest they pay?

Will not the Company, if they give three Year's Time for Part of the above Sums, be enabled to pay in that Time all their Debts, except that to the Government?

Will they not then have sufficient to add 7 per Cent. for three Years to their present Annuities? And

Will not such Addition, with the Sums paid on the first Money Subscription, make good a Dividend for 3 Years of 16 per Cent. in Money?

Were the present Directors chosen for more than 3 Years?

Will not they acquit themselves well, if they make such Dividends for their Time, and pay such large Demands on the Company?

Who is the Director that knows these to be Facts, how much soever largely concerned in any other Company, how much obliged to, or influenced by any Man in Place, that will betray his Trust, forget the Oath of a Director, and encourage any Scheme that is not Good for the *South-Sea* Company?

We shall conclude with some Observations upon the above Queries.

It may be observed, That the foregoing Proposals for a Dividend of 16 per Cent. is founded on the certain Income per Annum to the Company, and the reasonable Presumption that the Company in 3 Years Time will be paid the Sums they lent on Stock and Subscriptions.

That in 3 Years Time they need not dispose of any more of their Capital Stock; but at the end of 3 Years will have near 12 Millions Capital Stock: The Annual Sums for 3 Years of 562,500, being the remaining Payments on the first Subscription, with what Interest shall be made by the Company receiving their Annuities Weekly, and paying them but Half-yearly, with all the Profits that shall arise by any Tax on Transfers, the Grants of *Nova Scotia*, *St. Christophers*, and all Advantages in Trade, &c. These will be and remain with the Company, to enlarge their present, or provide for future Dividends.

But it may be objected, That if the present Court of Directors declare a Dividend of 3 Years; How shall the Adventurers be satisfied they will have a greater Regard to their Words than their Predecessors had? I answer, the 50 l. per Cent. was Chimerical, this of 16 per Cent. is founded on Reason, and intelligible to every Capacity. But if the Parliament shall, to compassionate the Sufferings of the unhappy Adventurers in *South-Sea* Stock, resolve to raise their Credit, and become Guarantees for this said Dividend, the *South-Sea* Company have it in their Power, and therefore ought to give them undeniable Security, by Transferring in Trust such a Value of their Stock undisposed of as they become bound for.

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25 Millions Stock, at 16 per Cent. per Annum —————	4,160,000	00	00	3
For 3 Years is —————	12,480,000	00	00	
Sundry Debts owing by the Company on Bonds, Exche- } quer-Bills, to the Bank, &c. —————	5,361,192	00	00	
Total proposed to be paid in 3 Years —————	17,841,192	00	00	
The Company's present Annuity is —————	1,851,782	18	09	
From the Proprietors in the 1 st Money Subscription yearly	562,500	00	00	
	2,414,282	18	09	3
Total 3 Years —————	7,242,847	16	03	
Sums owing on Stock and Subscriptions, with Interest } now due —————	11,579,436	12	06	
	18,822,284	08	09	
Dividend and Payments as above —————	17,841,192	00	00	
Remains with the Company —————	981,092	08	09	
The remaining Payments on the 1 st Money Subscription —	1,687,500	00	00	
	2,668,592	08	09	

The Time the Company will think fit to give to the Borrowers of Money on Stock and Subscriptions not being known, therefore we have only charged in the above Estimate the Interest that is now due.

Some Remarks relating to
Bill of Engraving
and the present State
the South-Sea-Com-
pany.